

[ABSTRACT]

A method of making a heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate
5 precursor is disclosed which comprises the steps of
(i) providing a web of a lithographic support having a hydrophilic
surface;
(ii) applying on the hydrophilic surface of the web a coating
comprising a phenolic resin;
10 (iii) drying the coating by supplying heat to the coated web;
(iv) a cooling step wherein the web temperature is reduced at an
average cooling rate which is higher than if the web would be
kept under ambient conditions but not higher than 30°C/s;
(v) winding the precursor on a core or cutting the precursor into
15 sheets.

The cooling step provides a significant improvement of the aging
behavior of the precursor. A stable sensitivity is obtained shortly
after coating.

20 .. [Fig.1]